

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/15233

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61F 2/24, 2/06,
US CL : 623/2.36, 1.11

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 623/2.36, 1.11; 606/108, 192, 194, 195

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
East Text Search

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,077,295 A (Limon et al) 20 June 2000 (20.06.2000), see Figs. 5 and 11-13.	1-7, and 14
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Y		10-13 and 15
Y	US 6,027,517 A (Crocker et al) 22 February 2000 (22.02.2000), see col. 3, lines 30-35, col. 17, lines 57-67 and col. 18, lines 1-9.	10-13 and 15
A	US 5,824,071 A (Nelson et al) 20 October 1998 (20.10.1998), See Figs. 4 and 7.	16-24
A, P	US 6,275,730 B1 (KenKnight et al) 14 August 2001 (14.08.2001), see Figs. 1-7.	16-24
A, E	US 6,402,781 B1 (Langberg et al) 11 June 2002 (11.06.2000), see entire document.	16-24

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
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- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

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document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 July 2002 (19.07.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

05 JUN 2003

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